

I Claim:

1. A method for the open-loop and closed-loop control and documentation of a cleaning operation with a cleaning medium, which comprises:

adding at least one indicator to the cleaning medium;

setting parameters for at least one partial step in the cleaning operation by comparative measurements of a concentration of the at least one indicator in a mixture including the cleaning medium; and

documenting at least the parameter settings.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture includes at least one of the group consisting of detergent and the at least one indicator.

3. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises setting parameters for at least one of the group consisting of a partial step already running in the cleaning operation and at least one following partial step in the cleaning operation by comparative measurements of the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning medium is in a form selected from at least one of the group consisting of:

a solid form;

a liquid form;

a gaseous form; and

a mixture of at least two of a solid form, a liquid form, and a gaseous form.

5. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises carrying out the measurements of at least one of the group consisting of:

the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture; and

a quantity of the mixture of cleaning medium present, during a progress of a partial step in the cleaning operation.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the mixture includes at least one of the group consisting of detergent and the at least one indicator.

7. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises:

after the at least one indicator has been added, measuring the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture;

after the cleaning medium has been applied to goods to be cleaned, performing at least one of the group consisting of:

a further measurement of the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture; and

a measurement of the quantity of the mixture present;

determining a quantity of the at least one indicator removed from the mixture from a comparison of the measurements; and

based upon the determined quantity of the at least one indicator removed from the mixture, setting parameters for one of the group consisting of:

a partial step already running in the cleaning operation;  
and

at least one following partial step in the cleaning operation.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the mixture includes at least one of the group consisting of detergent and the at least one indicator.

9. The method according to claim 7, which further comprises performing at least one of the group consisting of:

the further measurement of the concentration of the at least one indicator in the mixture; and

the measurement of the quantity of the mixture present,

during a mixture emptying operation.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the parameters defined for the at least one partial step in the cleaning operation include at least one of the group consisting of:

a temperature of the cleaning medium;

a quantity of the cleaning medium;

at least one time of an addition of additives to the cleaning medium;

at least one quantity of the addition of additives to the cleaning medium;

a duration of an application of the cleaning medium to goods to be cleaned; and

an intensity of the application of the cleaning medium to goods to be cleaned.

11. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises carrying out the documentation step by documenting at least the parameter settings in a storage media belonging to a control device for the cleaning operation.